

Dear Members of the Senate and House Environment Committees:

I am writing today to voice my opposition to aspects of **Senate Bill 1061, An Act Concerning the Fiscal Sustainability of State Parks**. This bill, if passed, would remove blind vendors from three state parks in Connecticut, as well as blocking blind people from operating concession stands in state parks in the future. Such an act is unconscionable. It will put blind people out of work, at a time when employment opportunities for anyone are slim. Blind people in the United States face a greater than 70% unemployment rate, and vending stands on state and municipal properties are the one secure way for a blind person not only to have a job, but a career.

This bill, if passed, would allocate a meager percentage of concession profits to the state agency for the blind, but that's not the point. We don't want crumbs—we want jobs. We want careers. We don't want government handouts—we want to work. Don't take one of the few opportunities we have away from us.

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